

Golam Azam's inordinate delay inexcusable: AG

Attorney General Aminul Huq yesterday told the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court that Golam Azam was guilty of making inordinate delay in filing a writ challenging the cancellation of his citizenship, reports BSS.

Making argument before the court during the sixth day's hearing on the appeal against the verdict of the High Court division restoring the citizenship of Golam Azam, the Attorney General submitted that instead of filing the writ in time Azam had stayed abroad and then come to Bangladesh with a Pakistani passport and extended his visa twice.

The Attorney General said that after the scrapping of Golam Azam's citizenship a number of heads had passed during the last 20 years yet he did not file any writ during that long period challenging the impugned notification.

He said, Golam Azam cannot justify his inordinate delay in filing the writ as he could have filed it before the High Court long ago under his constituted power of attorney even when he was abroad.

The Attorney General cited a case filed by the then Air Vice-Marshal M A G Tawab after he was deported from the Dhaka airport during the regime of Ziaur Rahman.

He said after he was denied entry into Bangladesh, Tawab had gone back abroad and filed a case through his constituted power of attorney through a relative challenging obstruction to his entering the country. The High Court, in its verdict, had declared the government decision to deport Tawab from the airport as 'Ultra vires' on unconstitutional, he added.

Attorney General Huq said Golam Azam knew it well that a birth right, as claimed by him, had ceased. Therefore, he ought to have come before the court much earlier.

He argued that Golam Azam did not avail of the opportunity to come to Bangladesh under the tripartite agreement among Bangladesh, India and Pakistan in which a sentence mentioned 'forgive and forget' nor did he avail the opportunity to return under the repatriation programme under which many people came back to Bangladesh from abroad.

The Attorney General said that till yesterday Golam Azam and his party the Jamaat-e-Islam

had not expressed any regret for what they had done in 1971.

Replying to a query from the court, the Attorney General referred to Article 3 of the Citizenship Order and submitted that in case of doubt as to whether a person qualified to be deemed as a citizen of Bangladesh under Article 2 of this Order, the question shall be decided by the government and that decision shall be final.

He said since its enactment this article was applied only once in disqualifying the citizenship of 39 persons.

The Attorney General argued that the government had acted fairly and there was no violation of natural justice with regard to scrapping of Golam Azam's citizenship.

In support of his contention the Attorney General referred to Halsbury's Accounts of All-England laws and said prior notice is required only when it is necessary but this is not applicable in Golam Azam's case. he said.

The Attorney General submitted that if the person aggrieved is aware of the case against him prior notice is not necessary.

He further said the Golam Azam was out of the country and the petition itself speaks that he had been to Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Libya and London. Therefore, it was not practicable for the government to serve notice upon him, he argued.

The Attorney General said in emergency circumstances, service of notice is not necessary.

He explained before the court the activities of Golam Azam against Bangladesh while he was staying abroad.

The Attorney General referred to the findings and observations in the judgement of the three High Court judges and affirmed his submission with the findings of Justice Ismail Uddin Sarkar who observed that the principle of natural justice had not been violated with regard to Golam Azam.

The court resumes hearing today.

Teachers urged to continue boycott of SSC exams

By Staff Correspondent

The Central Liaison Committee for teachers' movement yesterday said that the ongoing movement of non-government school and college teachers could not be foiled by resorting to repression.

In a joint statement, Liaison Committee conveners Principal Md Kamruzzaman, Sheikh Amanullah and Dr M Akhtarruzzaman and Coordinator Principal Kazi Faruk Ahmed urged the teachers community to continue non-cooperation with the government in conducting the SSC examination.

They said that if the teachers were repressed using the Anti-terrorism Act, it would intensify the movement instead of foiling it.

Strikes, labour unrest

From Page 1 Col 8

today, you will have to face the same problem when you will be in power", Saifur said referring to the opposition political parties.

He said that the privatisation programme was a must for the country because it was not possible for the government to run business, he said. Business should be done by the private sector and the government can play only a supportive role by way of infrastructure building, he said, adding that the public sector enterprises all over the world are loss-making enterprises. Bangladesh is not an exception in this regard, he said.

The losses incurred by the public sector enterprises are being covered by the money collected from the people as tax, which should not continue further, he said.

Dwelling on the problems of privatisation, Saifur said the unpleasant experience of privatisation in the past has acted as one of the major hindrances in implementing the programme. Another problem is the lack of entrepreneurs who have the fund to purchase the enterprises, he said and added the private sector is to be further developed to take the lead in industrialisation.

He said the obsolete or old

machinery of the public enterprises are not worth-purchasing. The problem is acute in the textile sector, no buyer is interested in purchasing the old, and outdated machinery of the textile units in the public sector, he said.

Referring to the emergence of some young and efficient entrepreneurs, he said they have the capacity to run the enterprises, but they are in shortage of fund. The government wanted to promote such entrepreneurship, he pointed out.

The Finance Minister was, however, very critical of the role of the bureaucrats. They do not want the public enterprises to be privatised, he said.

"I asked the managements of some of the public enterprises to float some shares in the stock exchange for public purchase. But they did not do so. Because the bureaucracy does not want to cut their power", Saifur said.

He, however, said the government has been trying to overcome all the problems as there is no alternative to privatisation.

Presided over by Shaikh A Hafiz, President of the Rotary Club of Dhanmondi, the meeting was attended by Iftekhar Alam, M. Mahbubuzzaman, Emdadul Huq and Nurul Islam.



A street vendor's booth in Sarajevo yesterday displays a variety of flags; including British, American, and a new version of the Croatian colours (left centre) that includes the national emblems of both Croatia and Bosnia.

— AFP photo

Polls observers submit proposal to EC

By Staff Correspondent

A group claiming experience in the monitoring of elections in some SAARC countries has recommended that two or three more general elections in the country be held under a caretaker government as the spectre of rigging "has not disappeared in Bangladesh."

Advocating the demand for a caretaker government, some members of the group, in a set of recommendations to the Election Commission (EC), said "public opinion, generally, seems to be supporting the demand."

The proposals were submitted to the EC by ten of the 40-member SAARC non-government observers' group that visited Pakistan to observe the country's National Assembly elections late last year. A copy of the recommendations was made available to The Daily Star yesterday.

The Bangladeshi members of the SAARC observation team were former chief Justice Kalmudin Hossain, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, journalist K G Mustafa, Justice K M Subhan, former advisor to the acting president Fakhruddin Ahmed, Dr Gowher Rizvi, advocates Sultana Kamal, Fouzia Karim Firoze, and Sara Kamal and NGO representative Mahbooba Akhter Mahmud.

The other suggestions, made by the team, include introduction of identity cards for the voters, appointment of all returning officers from the judiciary, engaging female election officials, freeing the electronic media from state control, training for the election officials, educating the voters on election rules, giving more powers to the Election Commission, election of the Speaker through secret ballot, and relaxation of rules relating to floor crossing of the MPs.

Abdul Ahad studied music at the Shantiniketan in mid-thirties.

When he was a student at the Shantiniketan, he earned the affection of Rabindranath Tagore for his keen sense of musical notation.

He was a bachelor.

Abdul Ahad had been suffering from a various ailments, the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital sources said.

The hospital sources said that he was suffering from chronic respiratory problem and indigestion.

Abdul Ahad was admitted to the hospital on May 11.

Abdul Ahad was also a celebrated singer of Nazrul and modern Bangla songs.

The court also rejected police's prayer for 5 days remand and ordered the investigating officer to interrogate the accused in jail gate.

Seventeen paintings of Joy- nabi Abedin were stolen from the Art Gallery in Mymensingh on May 2, 1992. Mrs Jahanara Abedin recognised the stolen paintings of her late husband.

The court also rejected police's prayer for 5 days remand and ordered the investigating officer to interrogate the accused in jail gate.

From Page 1 Col 5

the Tagore songs and also composed some of the songs of the great poet during Tagore's life time.

Abdul Ahad studied music at the Shantiniketan in mid-thirties.

When he was a student at the Shantiniketan, he earned the affection of Rabindranath Tagore for his keen sense of musical notation.

He was a bachelor.

Abdul Ahad had been suffering from a various ailments, the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital sources said.

The hospital sources said that he was suffering from chronic respiratory problem and indigestion.

Abdul Ahad was admitted to the hospital on May 11.

Abdul Ahad was also a celebrated singer of Nazrul and modern Bangla songs.

The court also rejected police's prayer for 5 days remand and ordered the investigating officer to interrogate the accused in jail gate.

Seventeen paintings of Joy- nabi Abedin were stolen from the Art Gallery in Mymensingh on May 2, 1992. Mrs Jahanara Abedin recognised the stolen paintings of her late husband.

The court also rejected police's prayer for 5 days remand and ordered the investigating officer to interrogate the accused in jail gate.

From Page 1 Col 5

the Tagore songs and also composed some of the songs of the great poet during Tagore's life time.

Abdul Ahad studied music at the Shantiniketan in mid-thirties.

When he was a student at the Shantiniketan, he earned the affection of Rabindranath Tagore for his keen sense of musical notation.

He was a bachelor.

Abdul Ahad had been suffering from a various ailments, the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital sources said.

The hospital sources said that he was suffering from chronic respiratory problem and indigestion.

Abdul Ahad was admitted to the hospital on May 11.

Abdul Ahad was also a celebrated singer of Nazrul and modern Bangla songs.

The court also rejected police's prayer for 5 days remand and ordered the investigating officer to interrogate the accused in jail gate.

Seventeen paintings of Joy- nabi Abedin were stolen from the Art Gallery in Mymensingh on May 2, 1992. Mrs Jahanara Abedin recognised the stolen paintings of her late husband.

The court also rejected police's prayer for 5 days remand and ordered the investigating officer to interrogate the accused in jail gate.

From Page 1 Col 5

the Tagore songs and also composed some of the songs of the great poet during Tagore's life time.

Abdul Ahad studied music at the Shantiniketan in mid-thirties.

When he was a student at the Shantiniketan, he earned the affection of Rabindranath Tagore for his keen sense of musical notation.

He was a bachelor.

Abdul Ahad had been suffering from a various ailments, the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital sources said.

The hospital sources said that he was suffering from chronic respiratory problem and indigestion.

Abdul Ahad was admitted to the hospital on May 11.

Abdul Ahad was also a celebrated singer of Nazrul and modern Bangla songs.

The court also rejected police's prayer for 5 days remand and ordered the investigating officer to interrogate the accused in jail gate.

Seventeen paintings of Joy- nabi Abedin were stolen from the Art Gallery in Mymensingh on May 2, 1992. Mrs Jahanara Abedin recognised the stolen paintings of her late husband.

The court also rejected police's prayer for 5 days remand and ordered the investigating officer to interrogate the accused in jail gate.

From Page 1 Col 5

the Tagore songs and also composed some of the songs of the great poet during Tagore's life time.

Abdul Ahad studied music at the Shantiniketan in mid-thirties.

When he was a student at the Shantiniketan, he earned the affection of Rabindranath Tagore for his keen sense of musical notation.

He was a bachelor.

Abdul Ahad had been suffering from a various ailments, the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital sources said.

The hospital sources said that he was suffering from chronic respiratory problem and indigestion.

Abdul Ahad was admitted to the hospital on May 11.

Abdul Ahad was also a celebrated singer of Nazrul and modern Bangla songs.

The court also rejected police's prayer for 5 days remand and ordered the investigating officer to interrogate the accused in jail gate.

Seventeen paintings of Joy- nabi Abedin were stolen from the Art Gallery in Mymensingh on May 2, 1992. Mrs Jahanara Abedin recognised the stolen paintings of her late husband.

The court also rejected police's prayer for 5 days remand and ordered the investigating officer to interrogate the accused in jail gate.

From Page 1 Col 5

the Tagore songs and also composed some of the songs of the great poet during Tagore's life time.

Abdul Ahad studied music at the Shantiniketan in mid-thirties.

When he was a student at the Shantiniketan, he earned the affection of Rabindranath Tagore for his keen sense of musical notation.

He was a bachelor.

Abdul Ahad had been suffering from a various ailments, the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital sources said.

The hospital sources said that he was suffering from chronic respiratory problem and indigestion.

Abdul Ahad was admitted to the hospital on May 11.

Abdul Ahad was also a celebrated singer of Nazrul and modern Bangla songs.

The court also rejected police's prayer for 5 days remand and ordered the investigating officer to interrogate the accused in jail gate.

Seventeen paintings of Joy- nabi Abedin were stolen from the Art Gallery in Mymensingh on May 2, 1992. Mrs Jahanara Abedin recognised the stolen paintings of her late husband.

The court also rejected police's prayer for 5 days remand and ordered the investigating officer to interrogate the accused in jail gate.

From Page 1 Col 5

the Tagore songs and also composed some of the songs of the great poet during Tagore's life time.

Abdul Ahad studied music at the Shantiniketan in mid-thirties.

When he was a student at the Shantiniketan, he earned the affection of Rabindranath Tagore for his keen sense of musical notation.

He was a bachelor.

Abdul Ahad had been suffering from a various ailments, the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital sources said.

The hospital sources said that he was suffering from chronic respiratory problem and indigestion.

Abdul Ahad was admitted to the hospital on May 11.

Abdul Ahad was also a celebrated singer of Nazrul and modern Bangla songs.

The court also rejected police's prayer for 5 days remand and ordered the investigating officer to interrogate the accused in jail gate.